

Message Text

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QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4238

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, NATO, NO
SUBJ: PROPOSED US VISIT OF NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES TO INVESTIGATE
MEASURES TO PROTECT OFFSHORE OIL INSTALLATIONS

REFS: (A) 75 STATE 053326, (B) 75 OSLO 901. (C) 75 OSLO 0434
(D) 75 OSLO 0228

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY: MEMBERS OF A SPECIAL NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
ESTABLISHED TO INVESTIGATE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
GOVERNMENT ON MEASURES REQUIRED TO PROTECT OFFSHORE OIL INSTAL-
LATIONS IN PEACE AND WARTIME HAS ASKED IF EMBASSY CAN ASSIST
TO ARRANGE FOR THEM TO VISIT US SO THAT THEY CAN DISCUSS OIL
RIG THREATS AND PROTECTION WITH THE APPROPRIATE US AUTHORITIES.
OIL RIG PROTECTION IS A SUBJECT OF KEEN INTEREST IN NORWAY
IT IS AN ISSUE ADDITIONALLY WITH POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT IMMEDIATE
AND LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS FOR NORWEGIAN DEFENSE. EMBASSY
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NRLIEVES THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE COULD HAVE IMPORTANT IMPACT
ON NORWAY'S DEFENSE EFFORT. WE HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR
THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO VISIT THE US AND GET THE BENEFIT OF
CONSIDERED US THINKING ON OIL RIG PROTECTION. END SUMMARY.

1. MR. LAASE AASLAND, CHAIRMAN OF THE NORWEGIAN INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE EMERGENCY MEASURES NEEDED TO PROTECT OFFSHORE OIL INSTALLATIONS IN PEACE AND WAR TIME, HAS ASKED EMBASSY IF IT CAN ASSIST IN ARRANGING FOR THREE MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE TO VISIT US TO DISCUSS OIL RIG PROTECTION WITH US OFFICIALS. AASLAND SAID THE GROUP WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE US IN SEPTEMBER IF POSSIBLE, GENERALLY MEETING WITH DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, COAST GUARD, US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES ON A THREE WEEK TRIP WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE STOPS IN ANCHORAGE, WASHINGTON, DC, NORFOLK, AND NEW ORLEANS. THE GROUP WOULD ALSO DURING TRIP PLAND TO MAKE BRIEF STOPS IN CANADA TO DISCUSS MATTERS WITH OFFICIALS THERE.

2. AASLAND SAID THAT GROUP'S ITINERARY IS ENTIRELY UP TO WHAT US AUTHORITIES BELEIVE WOULD BE THE BEST FOR THEM TO CARRY OUT THE REQUIRED DISCUSSIONS. NORWEGIANS WILL PAY ALL EXPENSES AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE THROUGH THEIR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, DC. NORWEGIANS THOUGHT THEY SHOULD VISIT ANCHAORAGE TO DISCUSS WITH FEDERAL AND STATE AUTHORITIES MEASURES NEEDED TO PROTECT COOK INLET ON-AND OFFSHORE INSTALLATIONS. THEN TO CANADA (INCLUDING PROBABLY ALBERTA, CALGARY AND OTTAWA) AND ON TO WASHINGTON, DC, DISCUSSIONS WITHDEFENSE DEPARTMENT, USGS, US COAST GUARD AND AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE, NORFOLK FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SACLANT AUTHORITIES, AND NEW ORLEANS TO MEET WITH USGS AND OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF GULF OF MEXICO INSTALLATIONS.

3. PARTICIPANTS IN THE TRIP WOULD BE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AASLAND, WHO IS FORMER UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND NOW SECTION CHIEF IN THE NORWEGIAN AID AGENCY, OFFICE DERECTOR THOR GUNDERSEN OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMITTEE SECRETARY THON BORGEN, WHO IS A CONSULTANT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY.

4. THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE WAS SET UP IN FEBRUARY TO (A) EVALUATE THE NEED FOR EMERGENCY MEASURES TO PROTECT OFFSHORE OIL INSTALLATIONS ON THE NORWEGIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF (B) DETERMINE
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WHAT LEGAL TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE AND ARE NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT EMERGENCY MEASURES, (C) ASCERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES AMONG THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE NEEDED AND (D) GIVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE COSTS FOR THE NEEDED PROTECTIVE MEASURES. THE GROUP HAS BEEN PREPARING AN OVERVIEW OF THE THREAT LIKLIHOOD IN PEACETIME AND WARTIME, AND DANGERS OF A TERRORIST OF FULL SCALE ATTACH, THE TECHNICAL VULNERABILITY OF OFFSHORE INSTALLATIONS IN PEACE AND WAR, THE MEANS OF PROTECTING SUC INSTALLATIONS AND THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IN PROTECTING OFFSHORE FACILITIES. MEMBERSHIPOF THE COMMITTEE COMPRISES EIGHT REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENSE, INDUSTRY ANDJUSTICE, THE NORWEGIAN OIL DIRECTORATE, ARMED FORCES STAFF AND OFFIC OF CIVIL

PREPAREDNESS. THE COMMITTEE PLANS TO PRESENT ITS REPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT EARLY IN 1977, ALTHOUGH A SPECIFIC TIME HAS NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED.

5. THE SUBJECT OF PROTECTING OFFSHORE INSTALLATIONS IS ONE OF KEEN PUBLIC AND OFFICIAL INTEREST IN NORWAY. WITH THE EXPANSION OF OFFSHORE RESOURCES TECHNOLOGY AND THE LIKELIHOOD THAT NORWAY WILL GAIN VAST NEW OFFSHORE RESOURCES AS A RESULT OF LAW OF THE SEA DEVELOPMENTS, NORWEGIANS HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT INSTALLATION PROTECTION. THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONSIDERED AND IS RECOMMENDING THE CREATION OF A COAST GUARD WITHIN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY TO MEET NEW SURVEILLANCE AND ENFORCEMENT REQUIREMENTS ON AND OVER THE SHELF (75 OSLO 2718). THE PROPOSAL WILL BE DEBATED EARLY NEXT YEAR IN PARLIAMENT. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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6 COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT IS ACUTELY AWARE OF THE POSSIBLE THREATS TO THESE INSTALLATIONS AND THE NEED TO PROTECT THEM. EARLY LAST YEAR THE SOVIETS EXPRESSED THEIR ANXIETIES TO THE NORWEGIANS THAT A DUTCH PROPOSAL FOR NATO TO STUDY THE DEFENSE OF NORTH SEA OIL INSTALLATIONS COULD LEAD TO A VIOLATION OF NORWEGIAN BASE POLICY (75 OSLO 0228). THE SOVIET IMPLICATION WAS NATO FORCES WOULD BE USED TO DEFEND NORWEGIAN OFFSHORE INSTALLATIONS AND THUS VIOLATE NORWAY'S POLICY AGAINST STATIONING FOREIGN TROOPS IN NORWAY DURING PEACETIME. THE NORWEGIANS LATER STATED THEIR VIEW THAT PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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OIL RIGS WAS A NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND NORWAY WAS CONSIDERING THE MATTER WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF PROPOSALS FOR A NATIONAL COAST GUARD (75 OSLO 0228). SEVERAL MONTHS LATER, IN MARCH 1975 THE GOVERNMENT STATED ITS ADDITIONAL CONCLUSION THAT PROTECTION OF OIL RIGS IN PEACETIME WAS A MATTER FOR COOPERATION AMONG NORTH COUNTRIES (WHICH COULD INCLUDE ALSO BELGIUM, DENMARK, THE NETHERLANDS, UK AND FRG) RATHER THAN NATO AND THAT IN WARTIME NORWAY PREFERRED BILATERAL COOPERATION WITH THE US (75 OSLO 0907).

7. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE US DID NOT IN ANY WAY SEEK TO INFLUENCE NORWAY'S THINKING ON ITS POLICY FOR OIL PROTECTION. WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT THE PROPOSED DUTCH STUDY FOR NATO COOPERATION WAS QUIETLY SHELVED.

8. THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S WORK HAS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE US AND FOR NORWAY'S DEFENSE. THE STRATEGIC LOCATION AND IMPORTANCE OF NORWAY'S EXISTING AND FUTURE OIL RESERVES AND THEIR PROTECTION ARE SIGNIFICANT TO US. THE GENERAL APPROACH--MULTILATERAL, BILATERAL OR UNILATERAL--WHICH NORWAY CHOOSES TO FOLLOW IN PROTECTING ITS OIL INSTALLATIONS, AS WELL AS THE DOMESTIC ORGANIZATION IT DESIGNATES, CAN STRENGTHEN OR DETRACT FROM NORWAY'S DEFENSE CONTRI-

BUTION TO NATO. SINCE OTHER NATO NATIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE INTERESTED IN THE DEFENSE OF OFFSHORE INSTALLATIONS, THEY MAY BE INFLUENCED BY NORWAY'S APPROACH TO AND EXPERIENCE WITH THE PROBLEM. ADDITIONALLY, THE POSSIBLE INVESTMENT IN EQUIPMENT TO PROTECT THESE INSTALLATION COULD LEAD TO SUBSTANTIAL US EXPORTS.

9. THE PROPOSED COMMITTEE MEMBER VISIT GIVES US AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT'S THINKING ON THIS ISSUE. ALONG LINES WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM PROCEED. WE SHOULD THEREFORE CONSIDER THE OFFSHORE INSTALLATION PROTECTION QUESTION AND DECIDE WHAT COURSE WILL BE BEST IN OUR OVERALL INTEREST FOR NORWAY TO FOLLOW. THE VISITORS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE SEEKING TO DETERMINE WHETHER OIL RIG PROTECTION CAN BEST BE PURSUED BY COUNTRIES INDIVIDUALLY, THROUGH BILATERAL CONTACT, SUCH AS BETWEEN THE US AND NORWAY, OR THROUGH MULTILATERAL COOPERATION SUCH AS AMONG THE NORTH SEA STATES, WITHIN NATO, OR THROUGH A COMBINATION OF THESE ALTERNATIVES. THEY WILL BE INQUIRING INTO WHAT BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT COULD BEST PERFORM THE FUNCTION--CIVILIAN OR MILITARY OF BOTH.
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10. WE BELIEVE THE NORWEGIANS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO CONCEIVE OF THE OFFSHORE PROTECTION FUNCTION AS ESSENTIALLY A MILITARY ONE. SINCE THIS WILL HELP STRENGTHEN NORWAY'S DEFENSE CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FUNCTION SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. AS A RESULT, AIRCRAFT AND OTHER EQUIPMENT WILL BE PURCHASED AND SHIPS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED WITH A VIEW TO EASY CONVERSION TO MILITARY USE, THEREBY STRENGTHENING NORWAY'S OVERALL DEFENSE POSTURE.

11. THE COMMITTEE IS STILL FACT FINDING AND IS CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVES FOR DOMESTIC ORGANIZATION OF OFFSHORE INSTALLATION PROTECTION. ON THE BROAD APPROACH TO COOPERATION WE BELIEVE THEY WOULD PREFER INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ACTION AS A POLICING FUNCTION IN PEACETIME WITH THE POSSIBLE NEED FOR BILATERAL OR NORTH SEA COOPERATION IN CRITICAL INSTANCES. THEY WOULD EXPECT SOME FORM OF NATO COOPERATION DURING THREAT OR TIME OF WAR. BUT BECAUSE OF THEIR DESIRE TO AVOID PROVOCATION TO THE USSR IN THE NORTH SEA AND LATER IN THE NORWEGIAN AND BARENTS SEAS THEY WOULD PREFER TO KEEP THE WARTIME CONTINGENCY PLANNING VERY LOW KEY AT THIS TIME.

12. ACTION REQUESTED. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT THE ABOVE VISIT BE APPROVED, THAT THE APPROPRIATE US GOVERNMENT AGENCIES BE DESIGNATED TO PLAN, ASSIST IN THE CONDUCT OF THE VISIT, AND THAT THE EMBASSY BE AUTHORIZED TO INVITE THE THREE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES ON A TRIP TO THE US.
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